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5 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN


C O N T E N T S

1. Cyprus: Makarios government threatens to turn to USSR if Western aid not promised. (Page 1)
2. Greece: Communists trying to exploit Greek popular opposition to US role in Cyprus dispute. (Page 3)
3. South Vietnam: General Khanh faces test of political skill in his attempt to control various groups. (Page 4)

25X1

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6. USSR-Germany: Serious dispute could grow from minor procedural matter between Allied and Soviet military. (Page 7)

25X1

7. Notes: India-Pakistan; Yemen-USSR;  (Page 8)

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

5 March 1964

DAILY BRIEF

Cyprus: The Makarios government continues its threats to turn to the USSR if it does not receive assurances of aid from the West.

The director general of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has privately stated that the Cypriot Government has already discussed the question of military assistance with the USSR. The US chargé notes that, although it is possible the Cypriot was "speaking for effect," he appeared to be sincerely worried over his government's increasing reliance on Soviet support.

The Cypriot press has reported that the official delegation scheduled to fly to Moscow this week will be headed by a cabinet minister.

The recruitment by the Greek Cypriots of 5,000 men for the special police, as announced on 25 February, has been completed and training will begin shortly, according to the police commander. An additional 5,000-man "home guard" of veterans of previous wars reportedly has been given four weeks of refresher training but has been issued no arms by the authorities as yet.

The Greek Cypriot press can be expected to welcome the 3 March French statement that De Gaulle might take direct action regarding the Cyprus dispute when the time is right. The statement's criticism of the London-Zurich Agreements, which established the present governmental structure in Cyprus, will be particularly pleasing to members of the Greek community.

(continued)

*With passage of the Security Council resolution authorizing him to proceed to set up a UN peace-keeping force, Secretary General Thant is now in a position to act swiftly and--more important to him--"legally." Abstention by the USSR, France, and Czechoslovakia on the key operative paragraph giving Thant this authorization reflects to a large degree their view that all peace-keeping operations should be controlled by the Security Council and not by the secretary general or the General Assembly.

25X1

Sweden, the key country in forming the peace-keeping force, is not likely to decide whether to participate until its Foreign Relations Council meets tomorrow morning.

25X1

Greece: Communists in Greece are trying to exploit the current wave of anti-American feeling over the Cyprus issue.

25X1 Slogans carried in the continuing anti-American demonstrations in Athens and Thessaloniki are becoming sharper and some reflect heavy Communist influence. Newspapers of all shades of political opinion, including the Communists, are attacking US policy. Before the cancellation of the Sixth Fleet's scheduled visit to Athens this week, Communists had planned to bait American sailors in the hope of creating incidents and provoking violence, [REDACTED]

25X1

The present bitterness, which the US Embassy in Athens terms as bad as at any time during the 1955-59 Cyprus crisis, is caused by Washington's allegedly pro-Turkish attitude. Press treatment of recent joint US-Turkish naval exercises in the Aegean Sea has contributed to the resentment.

Although the Greek Government has taken strenuous precautions to prevent danger to the US, British, and Turkish embassies, it has responded to public pressures by canceling permission for further use of official Greek radio facilities by the VOA. The press has charged that VOA broadcasts are unfair to the Greek Cypriots.

The US army attaché reports the attitude of military leaders is also hardening against the US, which is accused either of following blindly behind Britain or of conspiring with the Turks to partition Cyprus. The attaché warns that the Greeks are fully prepared to "pull NATO down on their heads" if Turkey intervenes in Cyprus. [REDACTED]

25X1

5 Mar 64

DAILY BRIEF

3

25X1

*South Vietnam: [General Khanh faces a test of political skill in his attempts to harness and control disparate religious and political groups.]

[One step Khanh has taken is the appointment of Le Van Tat, a general of the Cao Dai forces, as chief of Tay Ninh Province where the Cao Dai sect controls about a third of the population. Tat says he has been promised integration into the regular army and assignment to a larger zonal command if he succeeds in pacifying the province.]

[According to a captured Viet Cong officer, the Communists view government efforts to rally the Cao Dai as a threat to their major base in the province, which is adjacent to Cambodia, and are intensifying their own efforts to sow dissension among Cao Dai factions.]

[Khanh's move risks creating discontent among some civilians and military officers who fear a resurgence of the Cao Dai. Until subdued by the Diem regime in 1955, the Cao Dai maintained a large, autonomous army. There are also some signs of rivalry between the Cao Dai and cabinet members of the Dai Viet Party who apparently desire to develop independent political strength.]

[In addition, Khanh's reshuffling of military commanders continues to cause some dissatisfaction.

[Khanh's reinstatement of Diem's former commander of the marine brigade is seen as reflecting distrust of the marines and has driven morale to an all-time low.]

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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USSR-Germany: A minor procedural matter between Allied and Soviet military authorities in Germany could grow into a serious dispute.

On 24 January the Soviets directed the Allies to remove the curtains from military vehicles used by the three Western military liaison missions accredited to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. No deadline was specified.

The Allies responded by demanding that Soviet Military Liaison Mission vehicles in West Germany be painted khaki and be inscribed with the Soviet national insignia by 10 March.

The Soviets have already said they will not paint their vehicles. US officials in Bonn, who feel that the Allies can not retreat from their 10 March deadline, are concerned that any Soviet refusal to compromise could result in a confrontation similar to that of March 1962.

At that time East German personnel fired on a US vehicle and detained it for 26 hours. The US retaliated by confining Soviet liaison personnel to their Frankfurt quarters, whereupon the Soviets imposed similar restrictions on US personnel in Potsdam.

The impasse was subsequently resolved in talks between top-ranking military leaders.

25X1

5 Mar 64

DAILY BRIEF

7

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007500310001-4

NOTES

*India-Pakistan: Incidents on the cease-fire line in Kashmir continue. Five "Pakistani infiltrators" were killed on 4 March, according to an Indian spokesman. Pakistan had already decided to request the re-opening of debate on the Kashmir dispute at the UN Security Council next week. President Ayub emphasized [redacted] that his government is now determined to give the Indian Government no rest on the Kashmir issue until a settlement is reached.

25X1

25X1

Yemen-USSR: President Sallal has announced plans to visit Moscow late this month. Sallal hopes to receive further economic aid and possibly military equipment. The USSR has not started any projects since the airport at al-Rawdha near Sana was completed last fall. Since then, the number of Soviet personnel in Yemen has declined from 1,000 to around 400.

25X1

25X1

5 Mar 64

DAILY BRIEF

8

25X1

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25X1

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board approved
the following national intelligence estimate on 4 March
1964:

SNIE 14.3-64: "The Outlook for North Vietnam."

25X1

5 Mar 64

DAILY BRIEF

9

Approved For Release 2003/04/11 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007500310001-4

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